Increment for the period of strike

†233. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the period of strike is not treated as bar in the increment;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Finance had issued an order to this effect to Regional Rural Banks on the 8th June, 2000; and

(c) if so, whether the increment bar has been removed for the period of strike observed by the employees of Himachal Pradesh Rural Bank, despite the said orders; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per extant guidelines there is no postponement of increment of an employee of Regional Rural Bank (RRB) for participating in a strike, only if it is legal, irrespective of the period of strike.

(c) The Punjab National Bank which is the sponsoring bank of Himachal Gramin Bank has reported that no increment bar has been removed as the strike observed by the Himachal Gramin Bank employees in 1990 was held to be illegal.

Efficacy of Debt Recovery Tribunals

234. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of non-performing assets of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2001;

(b) what has been the ratio and recovery of NPAs during 2000-2001 and what was the total amount recovered during this period; and

(c) whether Debt Recovery Tribunals have fulfilled the objectives for which they were set up and whether any comparative study has

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been made so far about the efficacy of Debt Recovery Tribunals *vis-a-vis* conventional recovery system through litigation in courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2001 stood at Rs. 54,773.15 crores.

(b) RBI has reported that the addition to NPAs during the year 2000-2001 amounted to Rs. 15,384.62 crores, as against reduction of Rs. 13,905.49 crores, resulting in net addition of Rs. 1,479.13 crores to the gross NPAs of the public sector banks.

(c) While no specific comparative study has been made so far about the efficacy of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) *vis-a-vis* conventional recovery system through litigation in courts, the overall performance of DRTs has been satisfactory and DRTs are proving to be effective for recovery of dues of the financial sector. Out of the 29,656 cases referred to DRTs, as on 31st March, 2001 nearly 8,080 cases, constituting 27.3 per cent of the total cases, have been adjudicated by the DRTs and an amount of Rs. 1,542.15 crores has been recovered.

Poor performance of economic reforms

†235. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the achievement made so far with regard to basic economic reform programmes are not as per the expectations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign companies and not the country have been benefited by these economic reforms;

(c) if so, inspite to this fact, for how long the economic reform programmes are proposed to be continued;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.